(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the parameters adopted therefor; and

(d) what is the present status of shipyards in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) No proposal for setting up a Maritime Board for modernization of Shipyards is under consideration at present.

(d) There are 27 Shipyards in the country out of which 6 Shipyards are under the Central Government. The combined capacity of these yards is approximately 2,81,200 DWT and the maximum size of ship which can be built in Indian shipyard is 1,10,000 DWT. The order book position of Indian Shipyards is approximately Rs. 14,000 crore.

Hijacking of Indian Ship

†3145. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some pirates had hijacked an Indian ship M.V. Nehm Tulah alongwith its 14 members crew on 1st April, 2007;

(b) if so, the conditions on which the said ship has been set free; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) As per reports received from the owners of the vessel, the vessel, cargo and all the 14 crew members have been released at around 1120 hours Indian Standard Time on 6th April, 2007. The crew comprising all Indian nationals are safe. The Government is not aware of any conditions attached to the release of the said vessel.

(c) The Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai had issued a circular on 27th April, 2006 informing all concerned about the incidents of piracy

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and armed robbery against ships especially in the vicinity of the Somalian coast where incidents of piracy and attacks on ships have been on the rise. The Indian National Ship owners Association (INSA) and Federation of All Indian Sailing Vessels Industry Association have also been informed to convey to their members that they should keep away from the Somalian coast.

Subsequently, the Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai issued another circular on 8th January, 2007 drawing attention of the shipping fraternity and seafaring community of attacks against ships in Somalian waters. This circular also contained detailed guidelines to avoid such atacks and acts of piracy.

NH-83

†3146. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Dobhi-Bodhgaya-Gaya-Jahanabad-Patna section of National Highway No. 83 is proposed to be included in phase-III of National Highways Development Project under the Golden Quadrilateral Highway in Bihar;

(b) whether it is a fact the said section is proposed to be built and developed as four lane section; and

(c) if so, the time limit fixed therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Dobhi-Bodhgaya-Gaya-Jahanabad-Patna section of National Highway No. 83 has been recently included under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III (not in Golden Quadrilateral) for upgradation on Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) basis.

(b) and (c) NHDP Phase-III is generally for 4-laning. The proposal has recently been included in NHDP Phase-III and preparation of Detailed Project Report is yet to be taken up. It is therefor, too early to indicate time frame for completion of this project on NH-83.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.